

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the second variable resistor is disposed parallel to said first signal line, the first and a second reference voltage applying parts are applied respectively with different reference voltages, and as the attenuation of each one of the first and second variable resistors is controlled via the gain control voltage, either one of outputs on the first and second signal lines is blocked and the gain of the remaining output on the first and second signal lines is controlled linearly and continuously. Claim 11 has been amended to recite that the second signal line is disposed parallel to the first signal line, and claim 12 has been amended to recite that the first, second, third and fourth reference voltage applying parts are applied respectively with different reference voltages. This subject matter is believed to be supported at least at application page 46, lines 15-20.

Claims 13-26 stand withdrawn as directed to non-elected subject matter.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected as anticipated by USPN 6,229,370 to Inamori et al.

With respect to claim 2, the office action states that this claim is the same as claim 1 and is taught by Inamori et al. as noted in claim 1. With respect to claims 11 and 12, the office action states that these claims are a combination of some features of claims 2 and 10, and are rejected for the reasons given relative to claims 2 and 10.

Regarding the above-noted features added to claims 2, 11 and 12, the office action has not addressed them, and the Applicants submit that these features patentably distinguish over Inamori et al.

In particular, although the Inamori et al. patent discloses variable resistors, the patent lacks any description of any of the following features:

(1) variable resistors that are disposed in two lines so as to be parallel to each other as in the present claimed invention,

(2) first and second reference voltage applying parts that are applied respectively with different reference voltages, or

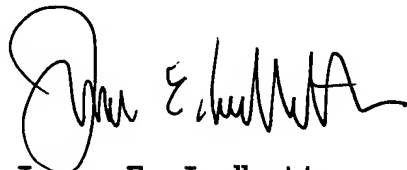
(3) a common gain control voltage  $V_c$  at which variable resistors can realize gain control.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 2, claims 3-10 dependent therefrom, claim 11 and 12 are not anticipated by Inamori et al.

Accordingly, in view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James E. Ledbetter', with a stylized, cursive script.

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Date: January 8, 2007

JEL/jpf

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